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FACT SHEET
AIR NATIONAL GUARD
MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Medical Technicians are an integral part of the health care team in the Air National Guard. Duties range from assisting with flying personnel physicals to running laboratory tests to investigating potential health hazards in the environment. After your initial training is complete, you will attend guard drill one weekend per month and 15 active duty days per year. The new technical skills you have attained will be valuable assets as you venture out into the civilian job market. Or, you may choose to continue your education, building upon the college credits you have earned through the Community College of the Air Force while you were at technical training school.

The role of the Guard in today's Air Force, benefits, training opportunities, participation, and eligibility requirements are outlined below.

The Air National Guard is unique among the Reserve components. It serves the interests of the nation in its Federal status and responds to state disasters and other emergency roles when summoned to duty by the respective governors. When serving in state status, Air National Guard units are invaluable in assisting local authorities during natural disasters, civil disturbances, and other emergency situations. The Air National Guard, along with the Air Force Reserve, provides the major source of added strength and equipment to assist the Air Force during times of war or national emergency. This information paper is being provided to individuals who desire information concerning opportunities for Medical Technicians and who are considering joining the Air National Guard family. The information is general and subject to change. For more information contact the nearest Air National Guard recruiter or call 1-800-638-0936.

TRAINING

Once you have been sworn in, you will apply to attend Basic Military Training. This six week course, held at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, is designed to prepare new airmen for further training at USAF Technical Training Centers. Military training includes drill and ceremonies, physical conditioning, and wear of the uniform. Academic training includes study in military law; rights, freedoms, and responsibilities; customs and courtesies; human relations; career advancement; and Air Force history and organization.

After completing Basic Training, you will usually attend a technical training school to learn the skills you will need to function in your home unit. This training may last from 5 to 53 weeks, depending on your chosen career field.

For more information on job descriptions and training requirements for your desired specialty, refer to the listing at the end of this fact sheet or the Air National Guard Enlisted Medical Technician Brochure.

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When you return from tech school, you may enter an on-the-job training program at your home station to familiarize you with the facilities and your new responsibilities there.

If you have prior military experience, you need not repeat Basic Training or any technical training you have successfully completed in the past.

PARTICIPATION

Air National Guard units usually meet one weekend per month. Both days are divided into two four hour periods know as unit training assemblies (UTA's). You are also required to perform fifteen days of active duty each year called annual training. Members are required to participate according to the unit training schedule; however, commanders do have some latitude in scheduling. Your annual training may be served in several ways depending on your and the unit's training needs. Sometimes it is served in active duty Air Force medical facilities; sometimes it is served with the active Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation System; sometimes it is accomplished while participating in military training exercises. There is opportunity for serving some of this time in Air Force facilities or training exercises overseas.

PAY

Your pay will be determined by a combination of your military grade and length of service. During weekend training assembly, you are paid for four days. While on active duty, you will receive one day's pay for each day of service. As a member of the Air National Guard, you can expect regular promotions. With each promotion comes an increase in pay.

BENEFITS

As a member of the Air National Guard, you are entitled to many benefits and privileges. Listed below are just a few of these:

- An opportunity to serve your community, state, and nation.
- New and rewarding professional, social, and personal relationships.
- Regular promotions.
- Use of military commissaries (grocery stores) and base exchanges (department stores).
- Use of active duty and Air National Guard recreation facilities such as hobby and craft shops, golf courses, theaters, bowling establishments, family recreation areas, etc.
- Space available travel on military aircraft.
- Membership in recreation and military service clubs.
- Low cost term life insurance.
- The opportunity to wear the uniform of the United States Air Force.
- Many educational benefits as outlined in the next section.

In addition to your federal benefits and privileges, many states offer additional incentives to their members, such as:

- Education assistance for state universities and colleges.
- State tax advantages and reduced motor vehicle registration.
- Low cost life insurance programs.

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

The Montgomery GI Bill

This is an educational assistance entitlement for all Air National Guard members who qualify. This entitlement requires NO financial contribution on your part. You may receive up to 36 months of cash payments to help with expenses while you are enrolled at an approved institution. This program is administered, and all benefits are paid, by the Veteran's Administration. Benefits are paid as follows:

- Full-time (12 semester hours or more).....$140.00 per month
- 3/4 time (9-11 semester hours).....$105.00 per month
- 1/2 time (6-8 semester hours).....$ 70.00 per month
- 1/4 time (1-5 semester hours).....$ 35.00 per month

Student Loan Repayment Bonus

If the career field you choose is designated critically short, you may be eligible to participate in the Student Loan Repayment Program. Each year, $500.00 or 15% of the original balance (whichever is greater) of your federally insured student loan will be repaid for you. Payments are made directly to the lending institution once a year, on your enlistment anniversary. To qualify:

- You must have a high school diploma or have completed 15 semester hours of college.
- You must be assigned to a bonus eligible career field and have been a member of the Guard for at least one year.
- The loan must be at least one year old.

Community College of the Air Force

The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) is a multi-campus, transregional collegiate system. Administrators, instructors, classrooms, laboratories, counselors, and students are located throughout the world and organized into a single education system.

The CCAF offers an Associate in Applied Science degree in five broad areas of study. Many Air Force technical, leadership, and management schools, as well as Basic Military Training, are affiliated with the CCAF system. CCAF credits are granted for successful completion of these courses. Although the number of credits received vary from course to course, the needed technical education requirements are usually met by completing the entry-level and/or advanced technical training schools for your specialty. The general education credits needed for degree completion may be obtained through civilian colleges or by successfully completing examinations that allow you to earn college credits for life and job experiences.

For more information on this or any other educational assistance program offered to members of the Air National Guard, contact your local base Career and Education Manager.

RETIREMENT

To qualify for retirement, you must complete 20 satisfactory years of service and have reached your 60th birthday. To have a "satisfactory" year, you must accumulate at least 50 inactive duty training points, 35 earned plus 15 "gratuitous" (bonus points for actively participating). You may earn additional points toward increased retirement pay, up to 60 per year for inactive duty participation plus all active duty points, provided the combination of all does not exceed the yearly maximum of 365. Once you have retired, you receive the same benefits as active duty retirees, such as:

- A generous monthly annuity.

- Medical care for you and your family.
- Survival benefits for you and your spouse and family
- Use of active duty facilities such as base exchanges, commissaries, recreation and welfare facilities, service clubs, etc.
- Space available travel on military aircraft.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for a position as a Medical Technician in the Air National Guard, you must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a high school graduate or have successfully completed the GED.
- Must take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Must be in good physical condition.
- Must be of good moral character.
- Must be between the ages of 17 and 34, unless you have prior military service.

JOB RIGHTS

Almost all members of National Guard and Military Reserve units take part in some kind of training, whether it be UTA weekends or Annual Training. To attend this training, Reservists must often take time off from their jobs, with absences lasting from a few hours to a few months. Federal law protects Reservists from being denied certain employment benefits because their military activities may occasionally interfere with their jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Veteran's Reemployment Rights administers this law and gives advice and assistance to Reservists in exercising their job rights.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

In order to be accepted for a position in the Air National Guard it is necessary to apply to the unit in which you may have an interest. If you have further questions or would like more information on the Air National Guard, call 1-800-638-0936 or write Air National Guard Opportunities, PO Box 554, Hanover, MD 21076.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN OPPORTUNITIES

Aeromedical Specialist
Brooks AFB, San Antonio, TX
9 weeks/2 days
Preceptorship-Designated Hospital
30 days

The Aeromedical Specialist assists the physician with medical care and treatment of flying personnel. You will be involved in training flight personnel in the physical and mental aspects of flying activities, as well as the medical aspects of flying safety. You will also treat minor injuries and illnesses and assist with performing physicals. Training includes anatomy and physiology, disorders of the human body, emergency procedures, and legal responsibilities. You will also learn techniques for performing physical examinations. Graduates are awarded certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) by the US Department of

Transportation and may apply for national EMT registration. Once you have completed your initial training, you will attend a 30 day preceptorship ("hands-on" training) at an active duty Air Force medical treatment facility. Here you will be afforded the opportunity to gain practical experience to complement your technical training.

Medical Service Specialist
Phase I-Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
14 weeks/1 day
Phase II-Clinical-Designated Hospitals
7 weeks/4 1/2 days

The Medical Service Specialist (MSS) is an integral part of the patient care team. As an MSS you will assist in planning, providing, and evaluating patient care, including inpatient care, outpatient care, emergency services, and disaster preparedness. Training is focused on the human life cycle (birth to death) using a nursing perspective. Subject matter includes anatomy and physiology, interpersonal relationships, emergency medical treatments, basic psychology as it relates to mental illness, and nursing technologies. Phase II includes practice in hands-on patient care, interpersonal communication, and operation of emergency vehicles. The clinical phase is performed at one of 13 major USAF medical treatment facilities. After completion of Phase II, graduates are awarded certification as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) by the US Department of Transportation and may apply for national EMT registration.

Aeromedical Evacuation Technician

An individual who joins one of our 10 Aeromedical Evacuation units would receive the same basic training as a Medical Service Specialist, then go on to receive specialized training in altitude physiology and aeromedical evacuation procedures. During the three day Altitude Chamber, you will learn about the effects of increased altitude on body systems and the oxygen equipment available on the aircraft. You will then return to your unit for a three week period to familiarize yourself with the aircraft you will be working in and unit procedures. Aeromedical Evacuation Technicians prepare the aircraft for enplaning/deplaning patients, baggage, and equipment and provide patient care inflight. As an Aeromedical Evacuation Technician, you could be called upon to assist during times of emergency, natural disaster, and combat.

Within three years of your enlistment to the Air National Guard, you will need to attend Medical Survival Training. This one week course held at Brooks AFB, San Antonio, TX, teaches the participants how to survive and care for their patients in any environment.

Radiologic Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
14 weeks/1 day
Preceptorship-Designated Hospital
45 days

As a Radiologic Specialist, you will operate equipment to produce diagnostic images and help the radiologist or physician with special procedures. Patient instruction, communication, and support are an integral part of this job. Your training will include the theory of basic electricity; radiographic techniques and film processing; anatomy and physiology; and operation of fixed and mobile radiographic equipment. The preceptorship, performed in a designated active duty

medical treatment facility, provides you with practical experience in nursing, orthopedic, and surgical procedures; department administration; and film processing techniques.

Pharmacy Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
11 weeks/4 days

In your role as a Pharmacy Specialist you will prepare, package, label, and dispense medications as ordered by proper authority. You will also be an important member of the health care team by providing instruction about medication use. You will also be responsible for inventory and reordering medications as well as safeguarding controlled drugs. In your training, you will learn the basic technical phases of pharmacy and skills needed to prepare and dispense medications.

Medical Administrative Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
6 weeks/2 days

The Medical Administrative Specialist is key to efficient, quality patient care in the medical treatment facility. You will initiate, maintain, and safeguard patient records. You will perform routine medical treatment facility administrative functions and may perform as unit receptionist. Training is geared toward hospital personnel and administrative services to include management of military personnel programs, typing and word processing, written correspondence, and record management. You will also learn anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, inpatient and outpatient administration, and aeromedical evacuation procedures.

Bioenvironmental Engineering Specialist
Brooks AFB, San Antonio, TX
10 weeks/1 day
Preceptorship-45 days

Ensuring an environment safe for work and play is key to the role of the Bioenvironmental Engineering Specialist. You will assist in conducting surveys for the purpose of detecting potential health hazards in the environment. You will collect water, waste, and other environmental specimens for laboratory analysis. You will assist in compiling data from the workplace as to noise effects, ventilation, lighting adequacy, and heating systems and evaluate corrective measures taken. You will perform medical readiness functions through detection and identification of biological, chemical, and radiologic agents. Your training will include basic math, chemistry, and physics; basic ecology and toxicology; industrial hygiene surveillance and Medical Readiness. You will become familiar with Air Force, state, and federal environmental protection laws. Once you have completed your initial training, you will attend a 45 day perceptorship program. Working in a designated active duty medical treatment facility, you will gain valuable "hands-on" experience in data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Environmental Medicine Specialist
Brooks AFB, San Antonio, TX
12 weeks

Prevention of illness and disease from poorly handled food is the main focus of the Environmental Medicine Specialist. You will perform inspections of foods, food establishments, and food service facilities for the purpose of preventing food contamination. In the event of a disease breakout, you would be called upon to help identify the causative agent and prevent recurrence. You will also be involved in monitoring the health and well-being of personnel exposed to hazardous working conditions and toxic chemical substances. Instruction includes chemistry, microbiology, human anatomy and physiology, food and public facility sanitation, epidemiology, and communicable diseases.

Optometry Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
9 weeks/1 day

As an Optometry Specialist, you will assist in patient treatments, fit eyewear, process eyewear prescriptions, perform and record diagnostic tests, and perform administrative duties. Apprentice Optometry Specialist School will teach you basic anatomy and physiology as it applies to the eye, visual physiology, vision classification, basic optics, and use and maintenance of optometric testing equipment.

Medical Materiel Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
5 weeks/2 days

Maintaining an adequate stock of medical supplies is imperative to the functioning of any medical treatment facility. As a Medical Materiel Specialist, you will requisition, receive, inspect, warehouse, deliver, safeguard, and inventory medical materiel. Training includes procedures in computer operations, requisitioning, document control, and warehouse procedures.

Biomedical Equipment Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
41 weeks/3 days

As a Biomedical Equipment Specialist, you will assemble, install, inspect, calibrate, and modify biomedical equipment and support systems. Training will include clinical application, operation, inspection, maintenance, and troubleshooting of a wide variety of medical equipment systems used in peacetime and contingency medical treatment facilities.

Medical Laboratory Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
17 weeks/l day
Preceptorship-Designated Hospitals
60 days

The Medical Laboratory Specialist is invaluable in helping the physician diagnose, treat, and prevent disease. The Medical Laboratory Specialist draws blood, collects specimens of body fluids, and performs diagnostic tests on those specimens. Instruction concentrates on theory and skills needed to collect, prepare, and analyse body fluids. The preceptorship provides you with the "hands-on" training needed to function in the laboratory with minimal supervision.

Dental Assistant Specialist
Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX
9 weeks/3 days

In your role as a Dental Assistant, you will assist the dental officer in treating patients, expose and process dental x-rays, sterilize and care for dental instruments and equipment, and maintain dental health records. You will learn oral and dental anatomy, sterilization and disinfection of instruments, preventative dentistry, radiology safety, and radiographic techniques.

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AMERICANS AT THEIR BEST

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